

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00345 261329Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5375

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, BY

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF EMBASSY'S REQUIRED CERP REPORTING

1. POST REGRETS DELAY IN COMPLETING CERP REPORTS 004 (CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS) AND 0200 (ANNUAL BUDGET). PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF OBTAINING DATA FROM GRB SOURCES HAS BECOME EVEN MORE CHALLENGING THIS YEAR OWING TO RETIREMENT AND DEATH OF SEVERAL EUROPEAN ADVISORS WHO HAD HELPED EMBASSY IN PAST TO OVERCOME GRB BUREAUCRATIC SUSPICION AND UNRESPONSIVENESS. NONETHELESS, WE HOPE TO OBTAIN DATA SOON, AND WILL PREPARE AND TRANSMIT REPORTS ASAP.

2. OBTAINING DATA FOR CERP-4291 (ANNUAL MINERALS QUESTIONNAIRE) POSES MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. VALUABLE MINERAL FINDS IN BURUNDI DURING PAST SEVERAL YEARS, REPORTED IN DETAIL BY THE EMBASSY, HAVE MADE INHERENTLY SUSPICIOUS BURUNDI EVEN MORE PROTECTIVE OF ANYTHING CONCERNING MINERALS AND THE EMBASSY'S NUMEROUS FORMAL AND INFORMAL ATTEMPTS DURING PAST TWO YEARS TO DISLODGE BASIC PRODUCTION DATA (GIVEN READILY IN PRECEDING YEARS) SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. WE WILL CONTINUE, HOWEVER, OUR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN FIGURES FOR 1973, 1974, AND NOW FOR 1975, BUT ANTICIPATE THE USUAL UPHILL STRUGGLE.

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